

- cont.*
- b. mixing the coated paramagnetic particles or beads with the cell suspension containing the target-cells;
  - c. incubating the mixture under gentle rotation;
  - d. examining the target-cells after incubation; and
  - e. counting the target-cells after incubation.

Please add the following as new claim 43:

- Sub F2*
- E2*
- 43. (New) A method for detecting a specific target cell in a cell suspension of a mixed cell population, in a fluid system containing a mixed cell population, or in a single cell suspension prepared from a solid tissue, with the exception of normal and malignant hematopoietic cells in blood and bone marrow, the method comprising the steps of:
    - a. coating paramagnetic particles or beads with an antibody or antibody fragment directed against a membrane structure specifically expressed on the target-cell and not on a non-target-cell in the cell mixture;
    - b. mixing the coated paramagnetic particles or beads with the cell suspension containing the target-cells;
    - c. incubating the mixture under gentle rotation; and
    - d. examining the target-cells after incubation[; and].
    - [e. counting the target-cells after incubation.]

#### Remarks

Claim 17 has been amended and new claim 43 has been added. Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 17-43 will be pending in this application, of which claims 17 and 43 are independent. Enclosed herewith is a check in the amount of \$9.00 to cover the additional claims fees. If the Office determines any additional fees are necessary in connection with the present response, such fees may be charged to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

This amendment responds to the Office Action mailed July 12, 1999. Therefore, enclosed herewith is a Petition for Extension of Time for one month, as well as a check in the amount of \$55.00 to cover the fees for the extension. If the Office determines that any additional extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) is required, Applicants authorize the Office to treat the